



WELCOME TO OPEN HOUSE MISS DETRICK 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR PARENT GUIDE TO ENGLISH 9



PARENT COMMUNICATION:

Miss Sarah Detrick- detricks@wcsoh.org – Class Website: <http://missdetrick.wikispaces.com/>

Occasionally I may need to contact you, or you may need to contact me, directly about your student's performance in my class. I believe parent communication will help ensure the success of your child in my class this year! Please realize that e-mails sent to me sometimes go to SPAM. Please contact me again if needed. I will do my best to reply to any e-mails within 24 hours.

GOALS/ EXPECTATIONS:

Welcome to a new year at Westerville South High School! As your student's English teacher, I have high expectations for his/her growth over the next year. It is my goal to ensure competence in completing work, inspire students to take responsibility for their actions and work, help foster integrity and perseverance in the face of adversity, challenge students to have courage in sharing their thoughts, history and dreams, and most of all encourage the pursuit of knowledge inside and outside of school, textbooks and the Westerville community. I hope to introduce your student to places, stories and experiences they have yet to explore in order to reach these goals. Together we will form a community of learners and assist each other in the discovery of new ideas.

COURSE INFORMATION:

Level: 9th Grade

Length: 1 year, 1 period

Credit: 1.0

Approximate Cost: Up to \$30 for paperback books and periodicals (not to be collected at school)

Foundations of Literature and Composition is intended for all ninth-grade students. A variety of genres of literature serve as the central focus for language study. Emphasis includes the development of listening, speaking, reading, writing, visual and technological literacy skills. Modern and classical literary works, including fiction and nonfiction, are studied to encourage a variety of approaches to literature. This course counts as one credit toward graduation requirement.

GENERAL LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students should know and be able to...

- Use vocabulary in the context of reading literature and writing about literature.
- Read for understanding and to make connections.
- Read and interpret a variety of literary forms: novels, short stories, poetry, drama, essays, articles, biographies, and autobiographies.
- Produce a variety of writing including narratives, responses to literature, business letters, informational essays, persuasive compositions, and informal writings.
- Apply effective research techniques to locate, evaluate, utilize, and document credible and relevant information.
- Communicate orally in a variety of forms, analyzing and preparing for a variety of speaking and listening situations.

LITERATURE:



Elements of Literature Third Course

Short Stories

Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths by Bernard Evslin

The Odyssey by Homer

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Independent reading novels to be selected by student

Other novels to be determined according to interest

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT POLICIES:

Grades are determined by points.

Students will have regular homework assignments, but the amount, type, and frequency will vary with each unit.

Students may also expect unannounced quizzes.

Students will be expected to keep an English notebook/folder. I will suggest a way to organize materials. Students will need to keep all graded and returned papers.

Students can also find helpful information on our course website: Class Website: <http://missdetrick.wikispaces.com/>. Homework, extra handouts, long-term assignments and other helpful links can be found on this site. If there is something you'd like added, please e-mail Miss D!



Student grades will be recorded in PowerSchool. Students and parents are encouraged to check grades periodically. Grades will not be updated daily, but rather weekly (larger assignments such as projects or formal papers may take longer). You can access the PowerSchool website through the Westerville City Schools website at www.westerville.k12.oh.us. The link is in the very top toolbar.

Because grades are posted online, I will not give students grade updates during class time but will be happy to make arrangements to meet with them after school.

Students may receive help from the teacher by contacting the teacher as to what times are available after school. Extra help is encouraged for any student! English tutors may also be available during study halls depending on the period.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES:

Students must attend and participate in all classes.

Previously *excused* absent students should see the folders for handouts on the assignment board. Additionally, students should check the assignment board for the day's activities. Students should check for this before coming to the teacher with questions. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they receive any missing work. Students will have the same number of days to make-up work, as they have been absent from school. For example, if a student misses three days of class, they will have three days to make up any homework or assignments that were missed. I will arrange extra time with students, if necessary, on an individual basis. Students should be sure to write "Absent" along with the dates absent at the top of their make-up work, as to not be penalized for the late work. Students must arrange to take tests/quizzes that they missed with the teacher. Generally make-ups will only be given after school from 2:15-3pm. Make-up tests and quizzes need to be made up immediately or the student will receive a zero! Long-term assignments have firm deadlines. No extra time will be given to students who miss prior to a long-term due date. For example: if a student misses the day before a long-term assignment is due but has known about the assignment for multiple weeks, he/she will not be given extra time to complete the project. It will be due upon their return to school.

If an absence is unexcused, the student will receive a zero for each assignment missed.

Commitments to sports, band, field trips, or any other extra-curricular activities are not a reason to turn in work late.

Wow Cards/ Cats with Class:

Students can be recognized for good behavior at South!

Assignment Board:

Every day assignments we will be working on and homework for the night are written down. Please encourage your student to use a planner!

Vocabulary:

Help your student review ACT/SAT vocabulary each week! Extra credit will be given for finding the words in context outside of class.

Online Textbook:

Students can access their textbook online at my.hrw.com. They will need to register with their username and password given in class.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Folder designated for English only
- Notebook paper- college ruled
- Black or blue pen and pencil
- Highlighter
- Student planner (for logging and keeping track of assignments)
- Flash (USB) Drive- Can be purchased at any office supply store, or places like Target, Wal-Mart, Walgreen's etc. Prices range from \$1.00 and up depending on the size of the drive. A 1GB Flash drive is more than adequate. This will be helpful for all classes *throughout* your student's four years in high school.
- Independent reading novel selected by student and approved by Miss Detrick or Mrs. King
- Up to \$30 for paperback books (not collected at school). I highly recommend purchasing these books online from places such as amazon.com, half.com (powered by EBay), or Barnes and Noble (bn.com). These sites offer used books from as low as \$0.47! As always, Half Price Books in Westerville is also a good place to look for a good deal. If you buy online, try to package all together for reduced shipping costs too!
 - Books that are required for purchase include:
 - Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (to be used 4th quarter)
 - One additional novel to be determined by interest
- If you have trouble obtaining any of these materials please send me an e-mail!



Because of the spread of germs and the threat of the flu season looming, we are in need of tissues and hand sanitizer. If possible, please donate a box of tissues and/or a bottle of hand sanitizer for use in this classroom. Thank you!